(b) the details of each case, indicating the date on which the same was received by the UGC; and

(c) by when each case is likely to be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Setting up of colleges in low enrolment districts**

642. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a plan to set up colleges in 370 districts of the country where enrolment has been low;

(b) the criteria fixed to categorize these districts as having low enrolment;

(c) whether the quality of education would also figure as one of the factors to qualify for the special scheme;

(d) whether special courses would also be taught in such colleges, to make them especially attractive; and

(e) the details of proposals made to build colleges of the highest academic standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Subject to finalization of the XIth Plan, it is proposed to encourage State Governments to establish colleges of excellence in districts with lower than the national average of Gross Enrolment Ratio and low density of colleges per lakh of population by providing 1/3rd of the estimated capital cost, so as to increase access to higher education of quality and relevance.

**Selection of Directors of IIM, Ahmedabad**

643. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has pre-selected people for post of Director of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad;

(b) the reasons for bringing in a new system of selecting Director;

(c) the steps taken to ensure autonomy for IIMs;

(d) the measures prepared to restore harmony between Government and IIMs; and

(e) the steps proposed to improve and expand IIMs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Directors of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) are appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on the basis of recommendation of a Search-cum-Selection Committee constituted for this purpose. In accordance with this procedure, Prof. Samir Kumar Barua has been appointed to the post of Director, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad w.e.f. 08.11.2007.